



## Qualifying Report

### 2023/4/8 Rd-1 FUJI Speedway

Weather : Fine Temperature : 16°C 22cars

For the 2023 season, Super Formula adopted the new car SF23 and new Yokohama tires using sustainable materials. The new season finally opened at Fuji Speedway.

Since the only official test before the opener was held at Suzuka Circuit, it was the first time for every driver to drive SF23 with the new tires here at Fuji Speedway.

The opening event was supposed to contain Free Practice on Friday, Rd1 on Saturday and Rd2 on Sunday, however, Free Practice had been canceled because of the bad weather.

It meant that every team and driver had to race without any data in QF.

Especially for Ota who could not attend the official test at Suzuka because of the injury during the Super GT test, it would be a performance with no preparation whatsoever.

Because of the cancellation of Free Practice on Friday, Knock-out QF on Saturday changed to a 45-min time trial.

As soon as the session started, both Makino and Ota went on-track to check the cars and the track with used tires. Also, they kept driving to check the set-ups while the surface condition was quickly changing by the minute.

They constantly recorded good times in the first half, however, they had troubles in balancing in Sec3. Makino finished in 12th, and Ota did in 17th. They would start the afternoon race from the tough positions.



## **DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING**

*Team Release*

#5: Tadasuke Makino Position 12th

During the 45-min time trial instead of knock-out QF, I attacked with three sets of new tires. However, I felt uneasy and couldn't find an ideal set-up afterall.

I will start from the middle, but focus on today's race first.

I will plan a strategy with my team, considering tomorrow's race too.

#6: Kakunoshin Ota Position 17th

This QF was my first Super formula drive at Fuji, and also my first driving of SF23.

I pushed from the beginning to learn the car.

At first, my lap time was among the top 5, but I couldn't adjust my car to the condition change. I need more experience.

I have a race today and another tomorrow. So, I will try to raise my position in the opener in the afternoon, while educating myself for Rd2 tomorrow.